

tion herein after directed to be made shall have taken place, shall be recorded by the clerk of Baltimore county court, and shall for ever be deemed and taken to be a public highway, and be kept in repair as other public roads in said county.

C H A P.
LV.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall ascertain and value what damages may be sustained by any person or persons through whose land the said road shall pass, taking into consideration the advantages and disadvantages, if any, and the same, when so assessed, shall be paid, or secured to be paid, by the person or persons who may apply to have the said road laid out, streightened and amended as aforesaid, to the person or persons entitled to receive the same, before he or they shall proceed to open the said road.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any person or persons through whose lands the said road shall pass, or his, her or their guardian or trustee, shall conceive himself, herself or themselves aggrieved by such valuation and assessment of damages by the said commissioners respectively, it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace, on his, her or their application, to issue his warrant, under his hand and seal, directed to the sheriff of the county, commanding him to summon twelve disinterested men, qualified by law to serve as jurors in the county court, to meet upon the premises on a certain day, of which six days notice at least shall be given to the party or parties interested, and the said jurors, when so met, and having each first taken an oath before some justice of the peace, that he will, without favour, affection, prejudice or partiality, assess the damages sustained by the person or persons at whose request such inquisition shall be taken, by reason of opening the aforesaid road through his, her or their land, shall thereupon proceed to assess and value the damages accordingly, taking into consideration the advantages and disadvantages, if any, and such inquisition and valuation shall be final and conclusive between the parties respectively; provided, that the said road shall not be opened through the buildings, gardens, yards or orchards, of any person, without his or her consent.

C H A P. LVI.

An ACT for the benefit of Robert Williams, a free black man, and of his wife and children.

Passed 25th of
January, 1806.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, by the petition of Sue, or Susannah, Williams, that she is the wife of Robert Williams, of Anne-Arundel county, a free black man, by whom she had the following children, to wit: Susan, George, Dinah, Caesar, Rachel and William, that her husband, the said Robert Williams, previous to the birth of the said children, and with an intention of freeing her, purchased her from John Galloway, who executed a bill of sale to the said Robert Williams, in lieu of making a deed of manumission, by which, instead of her being free, she became his slave, and therefore his children also are now his slaves: And whereas it is further represented, that the said Robert Williams has been deprived of his understanding, and found, under process from the chancery court, to be a lunatic, and of course incapable of executing a deed of manumission; and, for as much as in the event of his death, without being restored to his senses, his wife and children might be sold as slaves for the benefit of others, they have prayed a law may pass directing the mode by which they may be freed; and the facts appearing true, and the prayer reasonable, therefore,

II. BE IT ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That it shall and may be lawful for the chancellor of this state to execute a deed for the emancipation and freeing the said Sue, or Susannah, Williams, and the children aforesaid, and such other children as the said Robert Williams may have, and which shall appear to the chancellor, in point of law, to be his slaves, such deed of emancipation to take effect at the time prescribed therein, and in every other respect to have the same effect and operation, to every intent and purpose, as a deed of emancipation would have had if regularly executed, acknowledged and recorded, by the said Robert Williams, while *compos mentis*, the deed so to be executed by the chancellor shall be recorded amongst the land records of Anne-Arundel county, within six months from its date, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

C H A P. LVII.

A Supplement to the act, entitled, An act to lay out and make a public road from the Black House, in Harford county, to intersect the Pennsylvania line.

Passed 25th of
January, 1806.

WHEREAS Thomas Poteet, of Harford county, by his petition to this legislature hath set forth, that the road in the said original act mentioned was laid out through a well timbered